



MARCH 2006

A COMMON PURPOSE

Looking back on the past few months of the 2006 Idaho Legislature, I will not forget several critical issues important to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe that came before our state legislators.

Every day of the session presented seemingly more tough decisions, hard conversations, and steep learning curves. And of course not everyone was always pleased with every outcome. Yet beyond any piece of legislation, committee work, or vote, in this session there lies something greater than all of us—a renewed spirit of partnership between our great state and the American Indian communities of Idaho.

In some ways this spirit of cooperation was overt, such as continued tribal gaming for continued Tribal funding of educational programs in Idaho. Or a constructive dialogue rather than increased litigation costs over fuel tax revenues on Idaho's reservations.

More importantly, though, this spirit of cooperation was subtle.

As an elected official of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, I was encouraged to participate in the process. I appreciated mutual respect, sound communication, strong leadership, and visionary thinking with colleagues. I was enlightened to learn more about my neighbors.

Every person, no matter their political affiliation, color of skin, or economic status, has something to offer in this democratic process.

"The value each of us brings to the table is part of a common purpose we share--to enrich the lives of all of Idaho's citizens. Until all of her communities move forward, Idaho cannot make true progress."

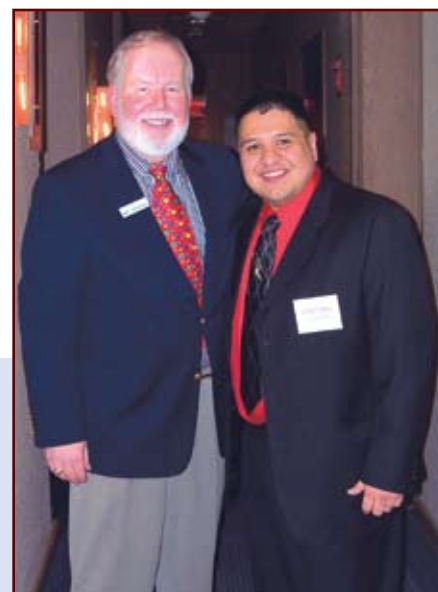
As elected officials, this common purpose is the heart of our work. We are sent to our posts each day by our communities who have chosen us as their advocates and leaders.

Reflecting on the cooperation, partnership and collaboration in the 2006 legislative session, I am convinced that Idaho's Indian country and the State of Idaho can find this common purpose together. Meaningful, long-lasting policies, without conflict and confrontation, will ultimately result in sound public policy for all of Idaho.

Regards,

Chief J. Allan

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(L-R) Senator Mike Jorgenson (R-Hayden Lake) who also serves as Chairman for the State of Idaho Council on Indian Affairs with Council Vice Chairman and Tribal Chairman, Chief Allan

FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Educational programs are important to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. We recognize the value of providing strong foundations for our children through educational programs that teach, inspire, and expand the world for our kids.

As part of our commitment to the younger generation, our Tribe generously contributes significant financial support to many educational programs across Idaho, benefiting both Native American and non-Indian students. Additionally, all of the educational and youth programs on the reservation are open to both Tribal and non-Indian students.

Enriching Education in Idaho

Since 1994, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has granted over \$6.3 million in funding to elementary, high school, and university institutions, including both private and public programs.

Other educational facilities such as public libraries, museums, and historical societies have also benefited.



In 2006, the Tribe plans on donating \$1.3 in charitable grants to school districts, and educational programs across the state.

Coeur d'Alene Tribal School

The Coeur d'Alene Tribal School is a Tribally-controlled school funded by resources from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The school is located in Desmet, on the southern end of the Coeur d'Alene reservation. The school welcomes both Tribal and non-Tribal children, and has an enrollment of about 75 children, grades K-8.

Testing Technology

Recently, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe began a collaborative, new cyber-tutoring project with the Washington State University (WSU) College of Education.

The pilot project includes the participation of 10 Plummer-Worley School District students, grades 11th and 12th, as they prepare for the Idaho State Achievement Test (ISAT).

Working with Dr. Gerald Maring of the WSU Engineering Education Research Center, Department of Teaching and Learning, the Lakeside High School students are paired up with graduate students, who will work with the Junior and Seniors via telecommunications video conferencing.

"Younger generations embrace technology," Tribal Chairman Chief Allan said. "This program is a great bridge to developing important mentoring relationships for the benefit of both Tribal and college students, as both groups strive for success through education."

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is focused on innovative ways to close the gap between graduation rates of Tribal and non-Indian students.

Recent studies have shown that tutoring and mentoring programs can be powerful tools for increased educational achievements by Tribal students.





Youth Leadership Development

During the past three years, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has provided a safe and structured environment for over 3,100 students, both Indian and non-Indian, with their After School Physical Activity and Peer Mentoring Program. Some opportunities of the program include:

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM Activities include arts and crafts, traditional Native American dancing and drumming, hip hop dancing, swimming, games, physical activities, tutoring, and field trips.

YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM Along with playing games such as football, basketball, soccer, and baseball, students can also golf, and practice cheerleading and wrestling. Youth can also participate in the National Youth Sports Camp at Washington State University.

ROCK 'N THE REZ SUMMER PROGRAM During the summer, kids ages 6-12 years practice traditional American Indian singing, dancing, drumming, arts and crafts, along with hip-hop dancing, rock climbing, fishing, NFL football camp, filming a music video, and field trips. Last year Youth Leaders, ages 12-21 years old, were hired, trained and paid as Benewah Medical and Wellness Center employees to supervise activities of this program.

TRIBAL YOUTH COUNCIL About 30 youth participate twice a month in leadership development through the Tribal Youth Council. Activities include community projects, leadership camps, and attending the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) and Northwest Indian Youth conferences. Recent community projects have included cutting and stacking wood for elders, serving dinner at community events, cleaning and planting flowers at neighborhood parks, and hosting 11 youth dances.

DESMET COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTER This program serves an average of 20-30 youth, during the evenings on Wednesdays through Sundays. Activities include games, physical fitness, hosting community dinners, and field trips to name a few.



"Through the Youth Council, I have learned to develop my leadership skills. It has given me the opportunity to travel and to learn. The experience has really helped me grow."

JEFFERY MIDDLETON / Lakeside High School Sophomore & Tribal Youth Council Treasurer

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Good physical and mental health are the cornerstones of a high quality of life. That is why the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has dedicated significant resources to quality medical care and physical health by establishing the Benewah Medical Center and the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Wellness Center.

After opening the doors in 1990, today the award-winning Benewah Medical Center located in Plummer, provides primary medical and dental care to over 10,000 Indian and non-Indian patients annually.

BENEWAH MEDICAL CENTER PATIENTS

- ▶ 51% American Indian
- ▶ 49% Non-Indian

The Center is a collaborative effort between the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the City of Plummer, and is one of the first joint Tribal-City ventures in the United States. The Benewah Medical Center is also an important economic engine for the area, with over 100 employees and an annual budget of approximately \$7 million.

The next step toward good health was to build a state-of-the-art Tribal Wellness Center in 1998. Today this \$5 million, 43,000 square foot health facility serves the community



with such amenities as a five-lane lap pool, therapy pool, aerobics room, full size basketball and racquetball courts, indoor walking track, weights, daycare, conference rooms and community health service and educational programs.

ACCESS FOR ALL

Citylink is a free, public transportation system that connects Coeur d'Alene reservation communities with the urban areas of Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls and Hayden. It is a result of a \$1.38 million grant to Kootenai County, from the Federal Transit System, with matching funds of \$1.38 million provided by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.



This is the first time in the United States that a Tribal government and a local government have collaborated to create free public transportation for all people in the region.

With high fuel costs today, Citylink has become an important transportation means for workers, students, elderly, and the general public to access businesses, industries, recreation, educational facilities and health care.

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